Online Manual Scoring Made Possible by TAO Grader

TAO Grader provides an easy-to-use, modern user interface for open-response item scoring that natively integrates with TAO Studio and TAO Advance, designed based on our extensive research to understand the specific needs of real users.

Grade Open Response Assessment Questions Online with Ease

While TAO's automated scoring functionality can relieve the grading work for many types of assessment questions, there may still be test sections that require written responses and in turn require human intervention for appropriate scoring.

TAO Grader, TAO's online manual scoring solution, makes it easy to assign scorers and score reviewers both to whole tests, as well as specific assessment questions based on subject matter for more effective, faster and consistent open response grading, and control over the end-to-end assessment cycle.

TAO Grader is integrated to work out of the box with TAO's components, offering a WCAG compliant, modern interface that is intuitive and easy to use, and flexible to suit both national and classroom assessment contexts.
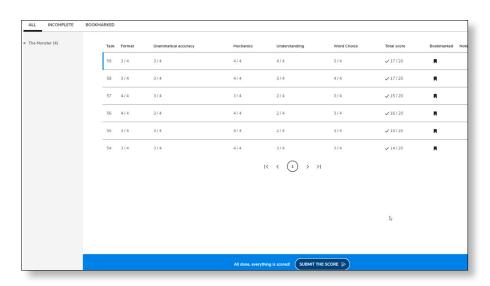

Inside TAO Grader

- Asynchronous team scoring
- Configure campaigns for Classroom based scoring
- Configure campaigns for SME based scoring by subject matter
- Assign user roles for scorers and reviewers
- Read behind scoring
- Flag scorer/item pairs & leave comments for scoring QA
- Define multi-trait scoring
- Highlight responses
- Set up grading rubrics
- Support grading in multiple languages
- Manage scoring projects and workflows, monitor progress and reassign tasks
- Full compliance with WCAG accessibility requirements
- Student to scorer anonymization
- Desktop and tablet responsive user interface
- Seamless integration and data exchange with TAO
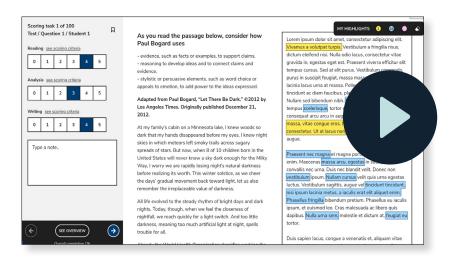
The Role of Scorers & Reviewers

TAO Grader defines two roles for users who are scoring assessment items: **Scorers** and **Reviewers**. While scorers complete the initial grading, you can also designate questions for to be reviewed by reviewers for gradiing Quality Assurance, based on subject category or user defined test-taker groups. This is known as Read Behind Scoring in TAO.

Multi Trait Scoring

Sometimes, different aspects of a response need to be awarded separate scores, meaning that multiple scores are needed for one item. This is described as multi-trait scoring.

In TAO, designating multi-trait scoring means that an item has more than one outcome which needs to be manually scored. For example, an essay question might take into account traits like, "grammatical accuracy" and "word choice," which apply to the same questions, but require different scores.

Watch the Product Video

Additional Resources

- User Guide
- Training Courses

TAO Grader FAQs

Q: How does TAO Grader ensure unbiased scoring?

A: Individual test-takers names are obfuscated in TAO Grader to eliminate subconscious bias by scorers. Additionally designating a Reviewer to confirm or challenge the original Scorer's rating further ensures an objective approach.

Q: Can TAO Grader be integrated with other QTI-based assessment platforms?

A: No, today TAO Grader must be connected with TAO.

Q: Which interactions are supported for scoring in TAO Grader?

A: TAO Grader supports all interaction types in TAO, including custom PCIs.

Q: How does Read Behind Scoring work?

A: Read behind scoring can be enabled in TAO to allow reviewers to double check a scorer's marking for a particular item. Reviewers can either confirm or override a scorer's original response.

Q: What data is collected from TAO Grader and integrated with assessment results?

A: All marks for the traits you are scoring an item on are returned to TAO's reporting module. Working data, like notes and highlights, made while scoring an item are not returned with the results. TAO Grader does not store any personal or identifiable student information.

Q: How can I integrate the scoring data from TAO Grader with my student records system?

A: If your student records system supports LTI, you can have student scoring data from TAO Grader returned as an overall assessment mark (a number between 1 & 10) in your gradebook.

Q: How long does it take for scoring results to be returned from TAO Grader?

A: Once a scoring project is submitted, the data will appear in TAO automatically. However, if read behind scoring is enabled, items will be sent to the reviewer to review and submit, and then returned to TAO's reporting module.

Q: How does item/pair flagging work (also known as Rate the Rater)

A: If you are reviewing a scorer for a specific item, and feel that the original scorer was inaccurate in their marking or does not understand how to score that particular item type, you can flag the Scorer/Item pair for review.

Want to learn more about TAO Grader?

Let's get you in touch with a solutions specialist today!

Contact Us